National Storage Policy

3669. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing problem of storage of foodgrains this year, in view of record production;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to announce a national Storage Policy;

(c) if so, whether due to lack of infrastructure a large number of foodgrains get wasted or rotten every year;

(d) whether Government have initiated any new measures for storage of foodgrains in its godowns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No Sir. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has adequate storage capacity (owned and hired — covered and CAP) to accommodate the forthcoming wheat stocks. The field officers of FCI have been delegated full powers to hire additional storage capacity as and when necessary.

(b) Yes Sir. The Government is in the process of formulating a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) In the new storage policy under formulation, the private sector participation is proposed to be sought and encouraged for development of infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in the country. The private sector will also be encouraged to build storage capacity to store and maintain the foodgrains procured by the Government agencies, for which they will be paid storage charges.

Scrapping Supply of sugar Through PDS

3670. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: